Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method of treatment of ischemic heart disease, comprising administering to a patient who is in need of such a treatment a substance, as an active ingredient, which can increase intracellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP) production by acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor, and which has an effect of reducing an infarct region, during and/or following ischemia reperfusion therapy.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein ischemia-reperfusion injury is reduced in the treatment of ischemic heart disease.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the ischemic heart disease is myocardial infarction.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the substance as the active ingredient is a natriuretic peptide or its salt.

Claim 10 (**Currently Amended**): The method of claim 9, wherein the natriuretic peptide is atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) or C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method for reducing an infarct region or suppressing enlargement of an infarct region in the heart of a patient who is suffering from infarct resulting

from ischemic necrosis as an ischemia reperfusion injury, wherein said method comprises:

administering a substance acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor to increase the production of cellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP), at an amount effective for reducing the infarct region or suppressing enlargement of an infarct region to said patient during and/or following ischemia reperfusion.

Claim 12 (**Currently amended**): A method of claim ~~11~~ 21, wherein the substance is a natriuretic peptide comprising atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) or C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).

Claim 13 (**Currently amended**): A method of claim 12, wherein the ~~substance~~ natriuretic peptide is administered at a dose between 0.01 μg/kg/ml and 0.2 μg/kg/ml by continuous infusion.

Claim 14 (**Currently amended**): A method of claim 13, wherein the ~~substance~~ natriuretic peptide is administered at a dose between 0.025 μg/kg/ml and 0.1 μg/kg/ml.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method of any one of claims 12, 13 and 14, wherein administration is by an intravenous injection.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method by any one of claims 12, 13 and 14, wherein administration is by a coronary injection.

Claim 17 (**New**): A method of claim 10, wherein the natriuretic peptide is administered at a dose between 0.01 μg/kg/ml and 0.2 μg/kg/ml by continuous infusion.

Claim 18 (**New**): A method of claim 17, wherein the natriuretic peptide is administered at a dose between 0.025 μg/kg/ml and 0.1 μg/kg/ml.

Claim 19 (**New**): A method of any one of claims 10, 17 and 18, wherein administration is by an intravenous injection.

Claim 20 (**New**): A method by any one of claims 10, 17 and 18, wherein administration is by a coronary injection.

Claim 21 (**New**): The method of claim 11, wherein the substance as the active ingredient is a natriuretic peptide or its salt.